

To: Juan Carlos Rodriguez [jc.rodriguez@law360.com]
Cc: CN=Richard Mylott/OU=R8/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]
Bcc: []
From: CN=Alisha Johnson/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Thur 10/11/2012 8:36:19 PM
Subject: Re: Wyoming hydraulic fracturing report
[Hotspot](#)

EPA has released new monitoring data as part of the agency's ongoing analysis of ground water quality in the Pavillion, Wyoming area. These data were collected in collaboration with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), which conducted its own sampling at one of the wells. USGS data were released earlier. EPA's new data and the USGS data are generally consistent with the monitoring data included in EPA's December 2011 Draft Report on Pavillion Area Ground Water Investigation. The new EPA data, along with EPA's draft report and USGS data, will be submitted to an independent expert peer review panel. EPA is also taking public comment on the data and will be extending the comment period to January 15, 2013 to give stakeholders sufficient time to consider all data related to the Pavillion, Wyoming groundwater investigation.
<http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/wy/pavillion/phase5.html>

From: Juan Carlos Rodriguez <jc.rodriguez@law360.com>
To: Alisha Johnson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Richard Mylott/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 10/11/2012 04:22 PM
Subject: Wyoming hydraulic fracturing report

Hi, I saw a Bloomberg story today about a new report regarding hydraulic fracturing's impact on some wells in Wyoming, and I'm hoping to get a copy of the report and a comment from you, as well, if possible.

My deadline is 6:30 p.m. eastern time today. Thanks.

Here is the story I saw:

Tests of drinking water near a natural-gas drilling site in Wyoming back up findings that established the first link by the federal government between hydraulic fracturing and tainted water, the Environmental Protection Agency said. Water quality in Pavillion, Wyoming, has attracted national attention since the EPA's draft report in December showed that hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, may have contaminated water supplies.

The EPA yesterday issued its follow-up analyses of two test wells it drilled in Pavillion and of five residents' water wells, saying the pollutants it found were "consistent" with the results it found last year in establishing that connection to fracking.

The new results "are generally consistent with the monitoring data included" in the EPA's December draft report, Alisha Johnson, an agency spokeswoman, said in an e-mail.

In fracking, millions of gallons of water with chemicals and sand are shot underground to break apart underground rock and free trapped gas or oil. The technology has helped the U.S. cut dependence on imported fuels, lower power bills and cut state unemployment from Pennsylvania to North Dakota.

Critics have said it endangers water supplies, while the industry maintains that no confirmed case of such contamination has ever been demonstrated scientifically. If the Pavillion results hold up to further scrutiny, they could refute that contention.

"EPA has provided no sound scientific evidence that drilling has impacted domestic drinking water wells in the area," Doug Hock, a spokesman for Encana Corp. (ECA), the company that leases the natural-gas field there, said in an e-mail. "Encana didn't put the hydrocarbons there; nature did."

The EPA conducted the latest tests after Calgary-based Encana and Wyoming state officials criticized the EPA's initial testing methods and preliminary conclusions.

Encana, Canada's largest natural-gas producer, owns 140 natural-gas wells in an area of cattle and hay farms outside of Pavillion, about 230 miles (370 kilometers) northeast of Salt Lake City. The company says that contaminants found in water wells are naturally occurring and that the two test wells the EPA drilled in 2010 were improperly constructed.

Encana provides water to about 20 area households, even though it denies contaminating any wells.

The gas wells in Pavillion are different than those drilled in most areas of Pennsylvania, where residents also have complained about tainted water from fracking. The wells in the Wyoming town don't go as deep and the aquifer is closer to the gas-production zone.

Also yesterday, the EPA pushed back until Jan. 15 its deadline for public comment on the preliminary report and the newly released follow-up data.

--

Juan Carlos Rodriguez
Reporter

Legal News & Data
860 Broadway, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10003
Office: 646-783-7197
Cell: 505-353-2277